(RCC) status in relaxation of Government policy of recognizing only one RCC in each State under National Cancer Control Programme. Since Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, was already recognized as Regional Cancer Centre for Bihar and that the issue of recognizing second RCC in a State was under scrutiny of Supreme Court in a similar case where the Government has taken a clear stand that only one institute can be recognized in a State and hence subjudice, it was considered appropriate to await the decision of the Supreme Court.

The National Cancer Control Programme was revised during the 10th Plan period and under the revised guidelines, only Government institutions are eligible to be recognized as New Regional Cancer Centres and accordingly the institute can not be recognized as additional RCC for the State of Bihar.

Suicides by farmers of A.P.

*79. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 110 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Prime Minister's special relief for the farmers to the tune of Rs. 37,500 crores have not been utilized and distributed to the debt-hit farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to take remedial steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 46 farmers have committed suicide during the period October 2006 to January 2007. Broadly, the following are the causes for suicide by farmers:

* Crop failure

* Indebtedness due to high rate of interest on loans

* Drought

* Social and economic insecurity

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a rehabilitation package of Rs. 9650.55 crore for sixteen districts of Andhra Pradesh. This includes both subsidy/grant and loan component. Various items of assistance covered by this amount are *ex-gratia* assistance from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), interest waiver, assured irrigation, seed replacement, watershed development, micro-irrigation, horticulture development, extension services, and subsidiary income services. A sum of Rs. 3255 crore has been released so far for implementation of the package. The State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of the package.

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen

*80. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for sanction of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen Saving-cum-Relief Scheme;

(b) if so, the complete details of the scheme, indicating the monetary participation of the Central and the State Government;

(c) the action taken on this request and the funds released, so far, for the scheme; and

(d) the reasons for delay, if any, in sanctioning of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh sought Central Assistance for Saving-cum-Relief component of the "National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen" during the current financial year.

(b) Under the Saving-cum-Relief, marine fisher has to contribute Rs. 75 per month for 8 months whereas the inland fisher Rs. 50 per month for 9 months and the Government provides equivalent amount (shared by Centre and State on 50:50 basis and 100% Central share in case of Union Territory). The beneficiary contribution together with Government contribution is disbursed during the lean period to the marine fisher in 4 and inland fisher in 3 monthly installments of Rs. 300 each.